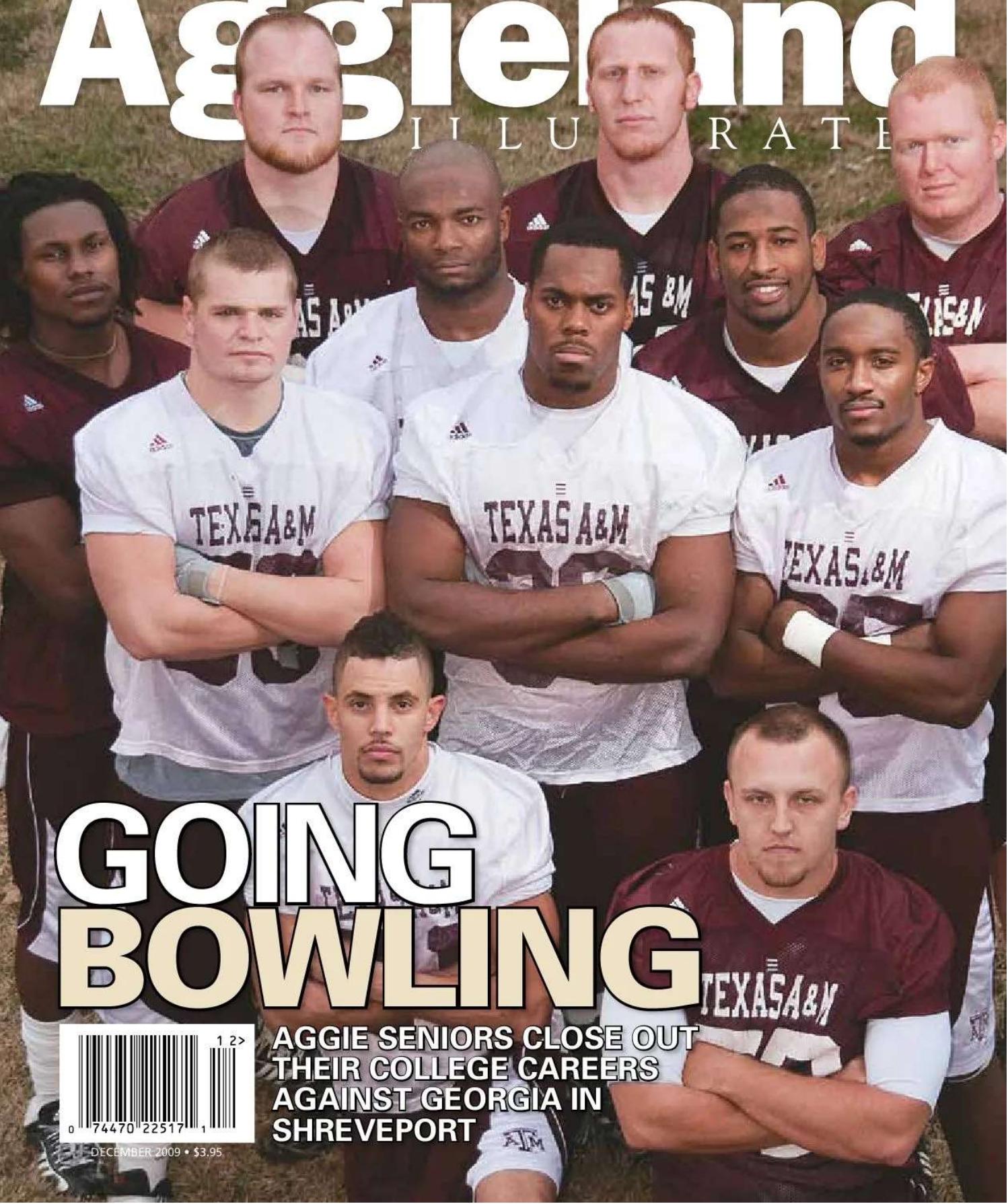


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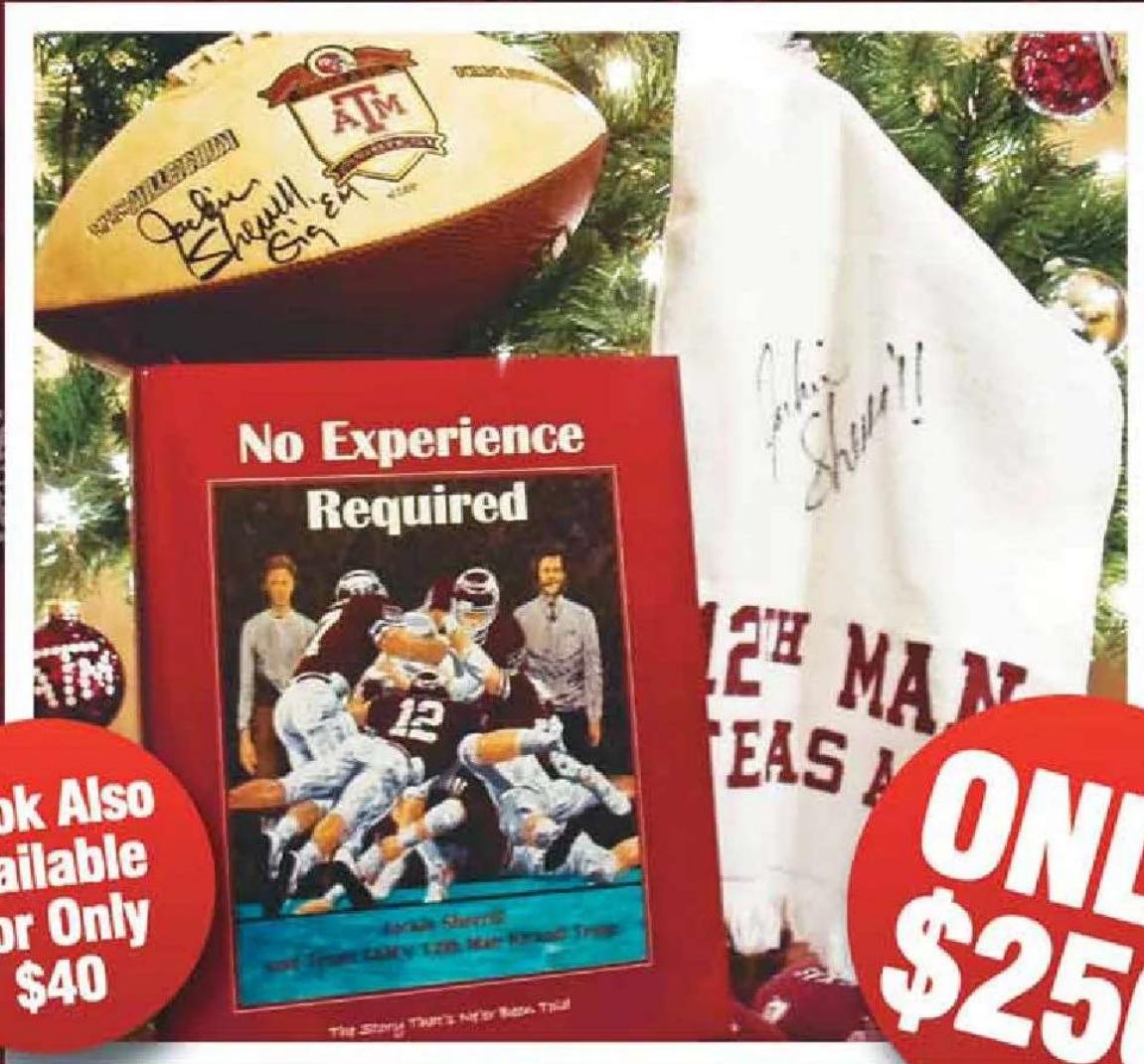
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DECEMBER 09

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Texas A&M will battle the Georgia Bulldogs in the 2009 Independence Bowl.

BY JEREMY KSIONDA '04

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BY BRIAN DAVIS '01

## 28 HORSE with B.J. Holmes

AI's Jeremy Ksionda challenges Texas A&M guard B.J. Holmes to a game of HORSE.

BY AI STAFF



### FIND THE 01

On the Cover: Kevin Matthews, Lee Grimes, Michael Shumard, Howard Morrow, Matt Featherston, Jamie McCoy, Derek Dumas, Anthony Lewis, Jordan Pugh, Justin McQueen and Corey Gibas. Photo by Jason McConnell '01.

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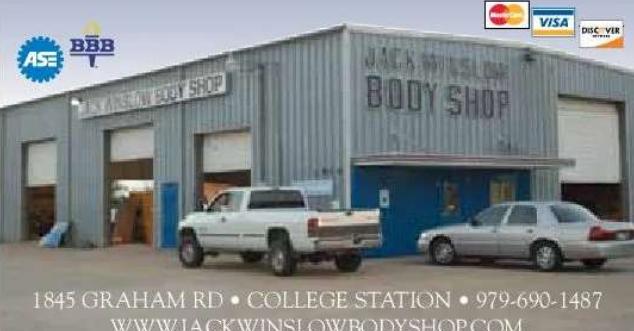
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## publisher's note

### Howdy!

When debating who to feature on the cover of this issue, several names immediately came to mind.

Jerrod Johnson was certainly at the top of our list. The junior QB had one of the best seasons in Texas A&M history, earning second-team All-Big 12 honors along the way (first team in our opinion). Johnson's remarkable performance in the Texas game garnered national attention, vaulting him into early discussions as a contender for next year's Heisman Trophy.

Von Miller was a candidate as well. The junior from DeSoto went from part-time player last year to national sack leader and first-team All-American this season – the first Aggie to earn first-team All-American honors since Jason Webster in 1999.

While either would have made a good choice, we decided this was the perfect time to pay tribute to the team's senior class. They have experienced plenty of ups and downs over the past four years and were integral in the team's improvement this season. See another picture of the group on page 21, followed by our Independence Bowl preview on page 22 and our pictorial review of the Oklahoma, Baylor and Texas games on page 24.

The Aggie soccer and volleyball teams had successful runs in the postseason before falling in the Sweet 16. For soccer, aspirations were higher going into the season, but a rash of injuries made reaching the Women's College Cup a tall order. Meanwhile, Coach Corbelli's volleyball squad was invited to the NCAAs for the first time since 2005, but they weren't just satisfied with being there. Unfortunately, advancing past the round of 16 wasn't in the cards. See more on page 17.

The men's and women's basketball teams are enjoying success on the hardcourt so far this season. Before long they will be lacating them up for Big 12 play. See more basketball on page 18.

Speaking of basketball, we like to do fun features with our staff whenever we get an opportunity. Check out BJ vs. JK on page 28 to find out how AI's Jeremy Ksionda '04 fared against A&M sharpshooter B.J. Holmes in a friendly game of HORSE. Also, you can find the annual AI Awards and staff bowl predictions on page 30 and see if you agree with our selections.

I'm looking forward to watching the Ags take on the Bulldogs in Shreveport. Let's send this senior class off with a bowl victory!

Gig'em Ags and BTHO Georgia!



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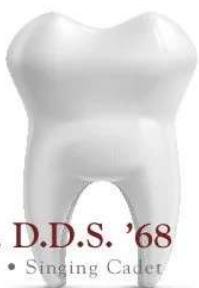
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snapshot



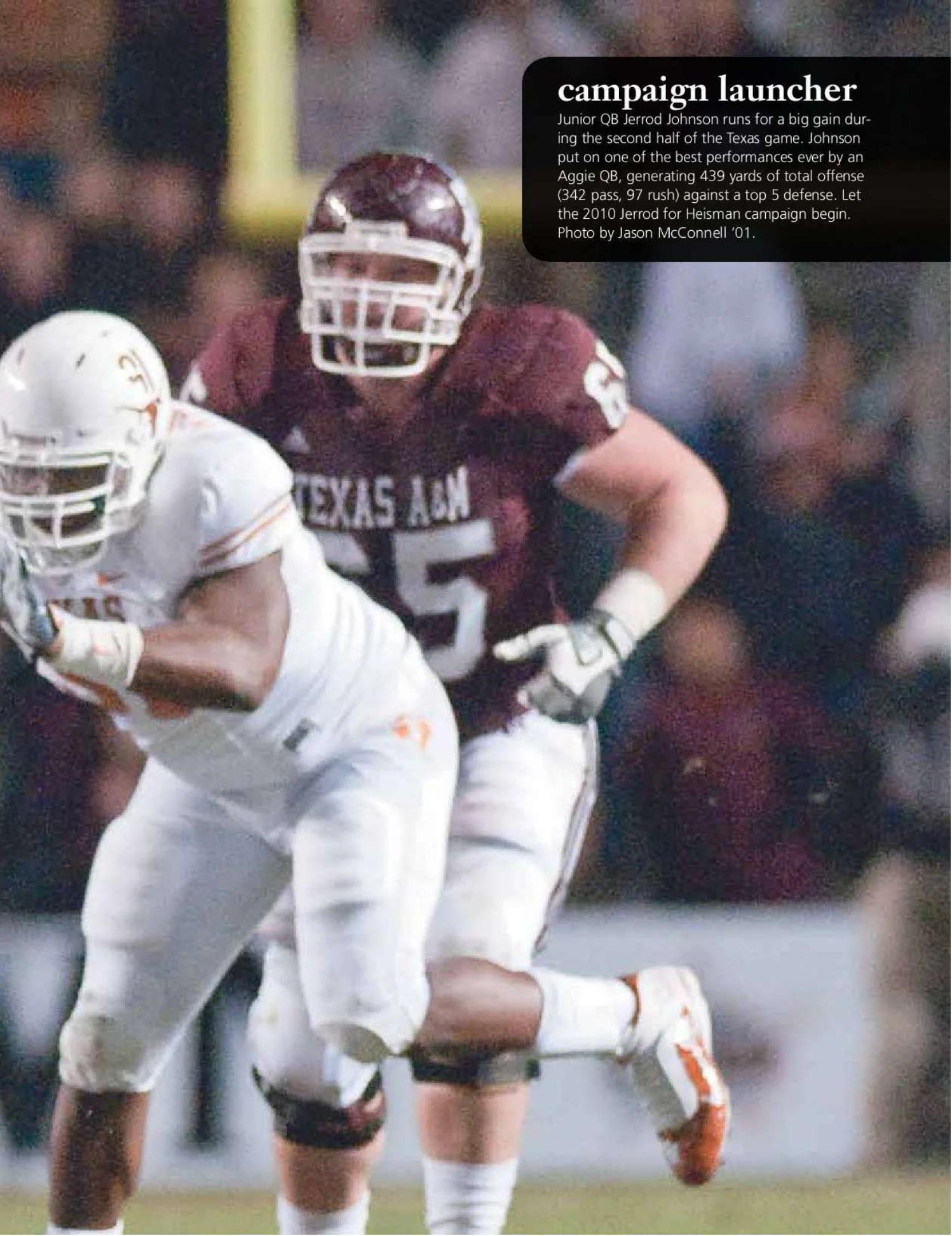
## miller meet mccoy

Junior Von Miller levels Texas QB Colt McCoy during the first half of the Lone Star Showdown on Thanksgiving night. The nation's sack leader finished with 1.5 sacks in the game raising his total to 17 on the year – just three behind Jacob Green's school record.

Photo by Jason McConnell '01.

snapshot

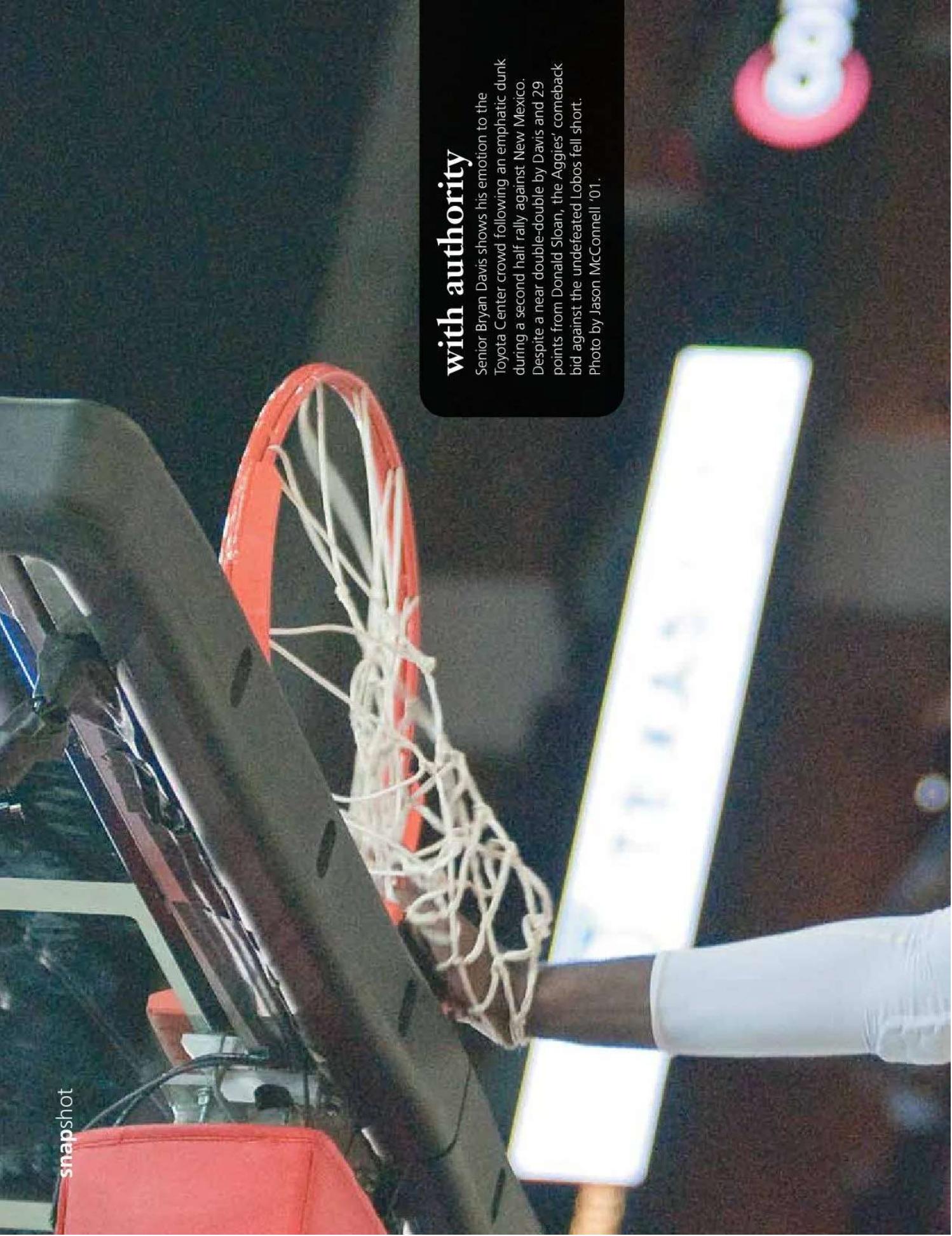




## campaign launcher

Junior QB Jerrod Johnson runs for a big gain during the second half of the Texas game. Johnson put on one of the best performances ever by an Aggie QB, generating 439 yards of total offense (342 pass, 97 rush) against a top 5 defense. Let the 2010 Jerrod for Heisman campaign begin.

Photo by Jason McConnell '01.



## with authority

Senior Bryan Davis shows his emotion to the Toyota Center crowd following an emphatic dunk during a second half rally against New Mexico. Despite a near double-double by Davis and 29 points from Donald Sloan, the Aggies' comeback bid against the undefeated Lobos fell short. Photo by Jason McConnell '01.



# classrankings

BY JEREMY KSIONDA '04

As the 2010 recruiting season reaches its end, we thought it would be appropriate to roll out Billy Liucci's Top 110 in Texas list to see how the Aggies have fared thus far, as well as take a look at who's left to finish out the class.

As you'll see, there's quite a bit of maroon in the offensive sections (maroon highlights indicate Aggie commitments), particularly at quarterback and offensive line. We've discussed the offensive line class frequently over the past few months, but it's worth noting at least once more that this group has all the makings of a very special unit. Combined with two of the top three quarterback prospects in the state, the future of the Aggie "O" looks to be in great shape.

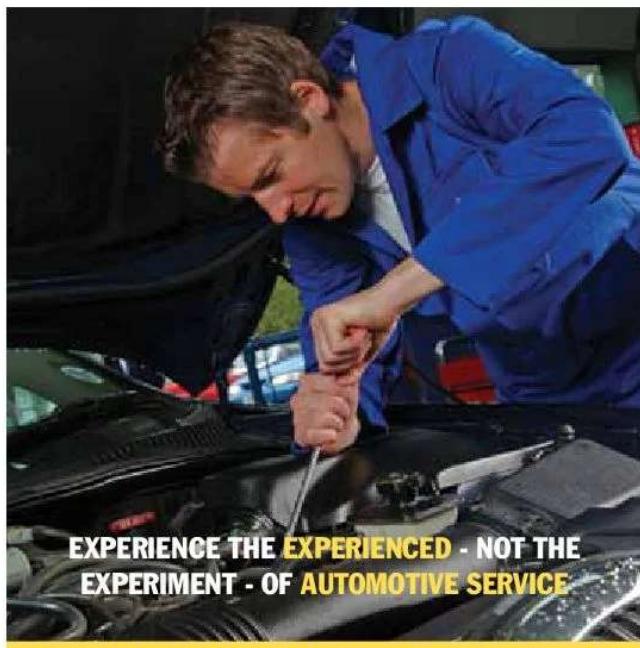
There are a couple of offensive commitments missing from Liucci's Top 110, but not because they aren't ranked highly enough. Shreveport (LA) Huntington's Jarrett Fobbs committed to the Aggies in July and has been pegged as a receiver by the A&M coaching staff. As a senior, Fobbs did a little bit of everything for Huntington, piling up 705 yards and 12 touchdowns on 84 rushing attempts, as well as 649 yards and 5 touchdowns on 55 receptions. When needed, Fobbs would switch over to the defensive side of the ball, and was good enough to tally 4 interceptions in limited duty. If Fobbs were to hail from the lone star state, he would probably be pegged as the state's top "athlete."

Fobbs is joined on offense by Littleton Colorado's Mister Jones, a 6-2, 215 pound running back who switched his commitment from Colorado to A&M upon an official visit in mid December. As a senior, Jones posted 1,317 yards on 163 attempts for an outstanding 8.1 yards per carry, in addition to scoring 18 touchdowns. Like Fobbs, Jones has the size and athleticism to play either side of the ball, and could possibly get a look at linebacker during his tenure at A&M.

Defensively, there's not as much maroon across the page, particularly at defensive tackle and defensive back. Fortunately, there's still some time remaining for the Aggies to pick up a player or two for each of those positions. In addition, the Aggies have received commitments from a trio of defensive linemen from Louisiana that would stack up against the best Texas has to offer. South Beauregard's Ivan Robinson, Franklin's Gavin Stansbury and Shreveport Evangel's Brandon Jackson were all targeted early by the Aggie coaching staff and gave their commitments to A&M in the spring. Robinson is the jewel of the bunch, and would rank in the top three if he were in Texas.

The Aggies will look to close out the class with a couple of defensive backs. Two likely candidates are Fort Bend's Toney Hurd, Jr., a Notre Dame commitment as of press time, and Brenham's Terrell Reese, who doesn't appear on the list but has risen up the charts after a strong senior season at Brenham HS. **AI**

For complete coverage of Texas A&M recruiting, contact Billy Liucci of the *Maroon & White Report* at (979) 690-7361 or by visiting [texags.com](http://texags.com)



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QUARTERBACKS (11)

Connor Wood	6-4, 205	Second Baptist	Texas
Jamell Showers	6-1, 205	Killeen Shoemaker	Texas A&M
Matt Joeckel	6-4, 220	Arlington	Texas A&M
Zach Lee	6-4, 200	McKinney	LSU
Case McCoy	6-2, 170	Graham	Texas
Scotty Young	6-3, 190	Denton Ryan	Texas Tech
Jacoby Walker	6-2, 190	Spring Westfield	Kansas
James Franklin	6-3, 215	Lake Dallas	Missouri
Clay Honeycutt	6-2, 185	Dickinson	Texas A&M
Jayler Arndt	6-4, 205	Cuero	
Sam Carter	6-1, 205	Katy Morton Ranch	TCU
<b>RUNNING BACKS (9)</b>			
Blaeche Seastrunk	5-10, 205	Temple	
Traylon Shead	6-2, 205	Cayuga	Texas
Ban Malena	5-10, 200	Cedar Hill	Texas A&M
D.J. Jones	6-0, 220	Denison	
Terrian Douglas	5-11, 175	Arlington Lamar	Tulsa
Dontae Williams	6-1, 210	Aldine	Oregon
Stephen Hopkins	6-0, 220	FM Marcus	Michigan
Princeton Collins	5-11, 185	Westwood	Utah
Marcus Murphy	5-9, 160	DeSoto	
<b>WIDE RECEIVERS (16)</b>			
Darius White	6-4, 205	RW Dunbar	
Mike Davis	6-2, 185	Dallas Skyline	Texas
Chris Jones	6-0, 170	Daingerfield	Texas
DeAndrew White	6-0, 170	North Shore	Alabama
Nate Askew	6-4, 220	SA Madison	Texas A&M
Sheldon McClain	6-3, 185	Cibolo Steele	Oklahoma
Kevin Johnson	6-2, 190	Cy Ridge	Oklahoma St.
Malcome Kennedy	6-0, 195	Cayuga	Texas A&M
Darius Terrell	6-3, 205	DeSoto	Texas
John Harris	6-2, 185	Naaman Forest	Texas
Kyle Guinyard	6-1, 190	Ennis	SMU
Jordan Leslie	6-2, 195	Tomball	
Ross Apo	6-2, 190	Oakridge	BYU
Quentin Parks	6-2, 205	Atascocita	
Eddie Johnson	6-4, 205	Midlothian	Baylor
Jordan Jolly	6-2, 170	Elkins	Houston

TIGHT ENDS (11)

Jaquan Lee	6-5, 260	Crockett		
Antonio Johnson	6-6, 235	Diboll	La. Monroe	
Andre Perry	6-3, 210	Austin Bowie	Houston	
<b>OFFENSIVE LINEMEN (17)</b>				
Ike Matthews	6-5, 275	Elkins	Texas A&M	
Ey Hopkins	6-4, 270	North Shore	Texas	
Ike Joeckel	6-6, 270	Arlington	Texas A&M	
Dominic Espinosa	6-3, 275	Cedar Park	Texas	
Van Washington	6-5, 290	DeSoto	LSU	
Edric Ogbuehi	6-5, 260	Allen	Texas A&M	
Barus Thompson	6-6, 290	Pflugerville	Oklahoma	
Adam Shead	6-4, 305	Cedar Hill	Oklahoma	
Maryl Williams	6-6, 270	Lake Dallas	Oklahoma	
Garrett Gramling	6-6, 305	Denton Ryan	Texas A&M	
Justin Woods	6-5, 285	Heath	Oklahoma	
Mad Lindsay	6-4, 320	The Woodlands	Alabama	
Rep Kinke	6-6, 290	Katy	Texas A&M	
Alvin Glass	6-3, 270	Dallas Carter		
Leon Calhoun	6-7, 315	Navasota		
Sam Feldt	6-4, 285	Pilot Point	Arkansas	
Julives	6-2, 270	North Garland		
<b>DEFENSIVE TACKLES (8)</b>				
Taylor Bible	6-3, 280	Denton Guyer	Texas	
Shon Dorsey	6-3, 275	John Tyler	Texas	
Alies Cotton	6-4, 275	Alief Taylor	Texas	
Tashun Beachum	6-2, 275	A. Maceo Smith	Arkansas	
Guy Guy	6-1, 310	Aldine Eisenhower	Nebraska	
Daniel Noble	6-4, 295	FM Marcus	Oklahoma	
Terrea Peterson	6-4, 285	SA East Central	Oklahoma	
Dominique Henderson	6-4, 260	SA Roosevelt	Baylor	
<b>DEFENSIVE ENDS (9)</b>				
ackson Jeffcoat	6-5, 230	Plano West		
Reggie Wilson	6-4, 240	Haltom City	Texas	
Emmanuel Hicks	6-3, 220	Hutto	Texas A&M	
ackson Richards	6-4, 240	Southlake Carroll	Texas Tech	
Reg Daniels	6-4, 240	St. Plus X	Texas	
Montre Moore	6-6, 225	Rowlett	Texas A&M	
Holmes Onwukafia	6-3, 220	Cedar Park	Florida State	
Joseph Okator	6-6, 230	Bellaire	Oklahoma St.	
arence Lee	6-4, 210		Houston	

LINEBACKERS (11)

<b>Corey Nelson</b>	6-1, 210	Dallas Skyline	Texas A&M
<b>Shaun Lewis</b>	6-1, 200	FB Hightower	Oklahoma St.
<b>Tevin Jackson</b>	6-2, 190	Garland	Texas
<b>Aaron Benson</b>	6-1, 205	Cedar Hill	Texas
<b>Domonique Patterson</b>	6-1, 210	Dallas Skyline	Texas A&M
<b>Aaron Franklin</b>	6-1, 215	Marshall	Oklahoma
<b>Caleb Lavey</b>	6-3, 220	Celina	Oklahoma St.
<b>Luke Mundie</b>	6-3, 200	Klein Oak	LSU
<b>Rashod Favors</b>	6-1, 215	FW Durbar	Oklahoma
<b>Kris Catlin</b>	6-2, 215	SA Madison	Oklahoma St.
<b>Stephen Maeweather</b>	6-3, 205	Sharpstown	Oklahoma St.
<b>DEFENSIVE BACKS (15)</b>			
<b>Ahmad Dixon</b>	6-1, 95	Waco Midway	Baylor
<b>Bryant Jackson</b>	6-3, 175	Sulphur Springs	Texas
<b>Tyler Stephenson</b>	5-10, 175	Lancaster	Baylor
<b>Carrington Byndom</b>	6-0, 165	Lufkin	Texas
<b>Toney Hurd Jr.</b>	5-10, 170	FB Marshall	Notre Dame
<b>Kacy Rodgers</b>	6-2, 185	Southlake Carroll	Miami
<b>Adrian White</b>	5-11, 170	DeSoto	Texas
<b>Eddnick Lofton</b>	5-11, 195	Nimitz	Oklahoma
<b>Cianette Evans</b>	6-0, 170	Seguin	Nebraska
<b>Quentin Hayes</b>	6-1, 175	Lancaster	Oklahoma
<b>Tommie Saunders</b>	6-1, 195	SA Madison	Oklahoma St.
<b>Haney Jackson</b>	6-1, 180	Hightower	
<b>Alton Demby</b>	5-10, 180	North Shore	Houston
<b>Denzelle White</b>	6-3, 185	Plano East	
<b>Zach McMillian</b>	5-10, 160	FB Dulles	Houston
<b>ATHLETES (11)</b>			
<b>James Haynes</b>	6-1, 180	West Orange-Stark	Oklahoma
<b>Adrian Phillips</b>	5-11, 190	Garland	Texas
<b>Trey Franks</b>	5-9, 170	West Orange-Stark	Oklahoma
<b>Travares Battle-Smith</b>	5-11, 175	SA Jay	TCU
<b>Dominique Sanders</b>	6-1, 190	FW Durbar	
<b>Brent Walters</b>	5-11, 180	Willis	
<b>Justin Gilbert</b>	6-1, 175	Huntsville	Oklahoma St.
<b>Joe Powell</b>	6-1, 175	Dallas Skyline	Oklahoma
<b>Darian Lazard</b>	6-0, 170	Dawson	Utah
<b>LeKendrick Williams</b>	5-8, 160	Sharpstown	Texas A&M
<b>Jeremy Johnson</b>	6-2, 175	Silsbee	West Virginia

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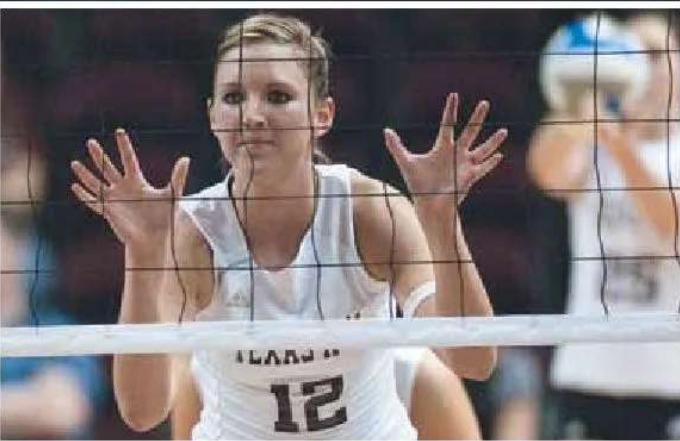
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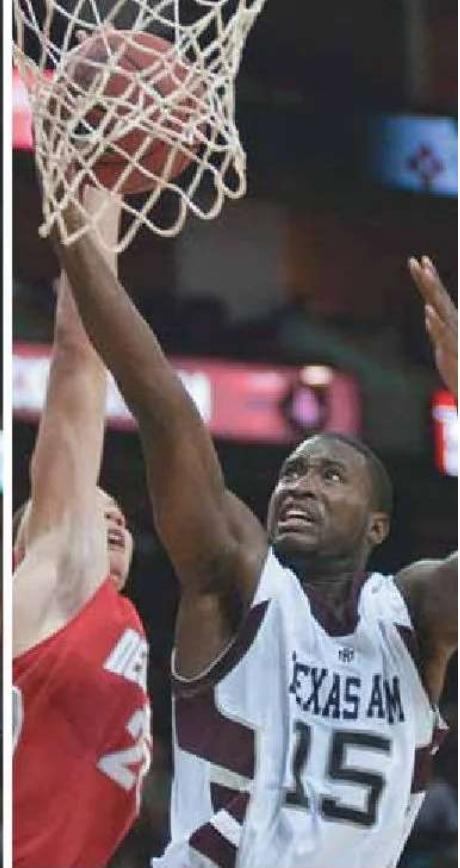
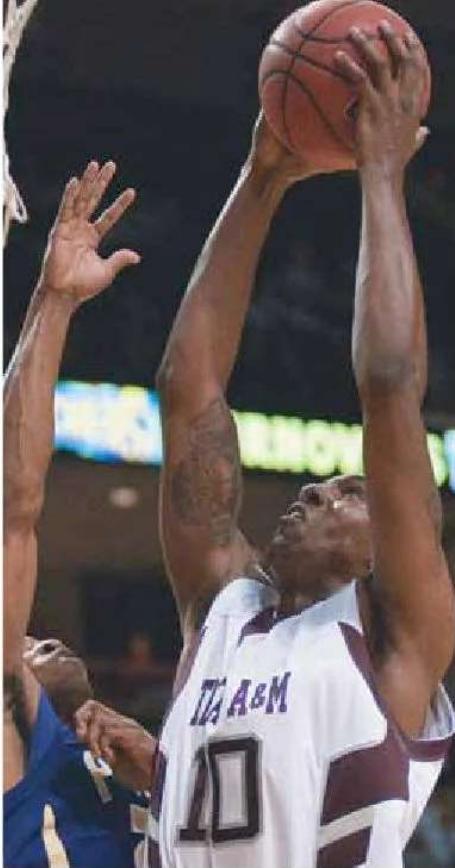
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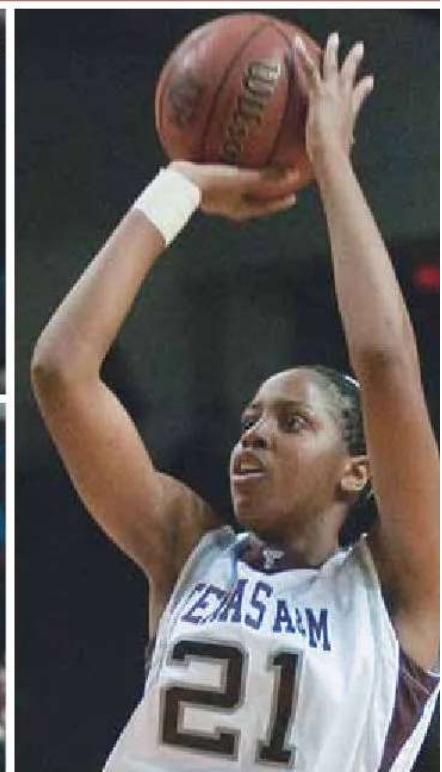


(soccer) The soccer team finished the 2009 season ranked 13th in the nation after advancing to the round of 16 for the 10th time in program history. The Aggies ended their season after falling 2-1 in double overtime against Florida State. Senior Emily Peterson (left) won the Lowe's Senior CLASS Award for being the most outstanding senior student-athlete in NCAA Division I women's soccer. (volleyball) The volleyball team's run in the NCAA Tournament came to an end at the Sweet Sixteen as the Aggies fell to No. 2 Texas. Texas A&M advanced to the NCAAs for the first time since 2005 and played in its first regional semifinal match since 2003 after defeating No. 19 Arizona and No. 18 LSU in the first two rounds.





**(men's)** With only a few games remaining until conference play begins, the men's basketball team is looking better than advertised so far this season. The Aggies seized an early opportunity to make a national statement in the 76 Classic by upsetting No. 19 Clemson and No. 22 Minnesota, while narrowly losing to eventual tournament champion No. 8 West Virginia. The only other blemish on the Aggies' non-conference schedule was from a three point loss to undefeated New Mexico at the Toyota Center in Houston. After beginning the season unranked, Texas A&M has climbed as high as No. 16 in the nation. **(women's)** Gary Blair's squad began the season ranked No. 16 in the nation and have been rising in the polls ever since, dominating their opponents along the way. Their statement victory came in the second game of the season – an 18-point upset over No. 6 Duke. Just when it appeared the Aggies would cruise into conference play unscathed, they were bitten by the injury bug and upset by a determined TCU team on the road. The Aggies look to get healthy and back on track before Big 12 play begins.





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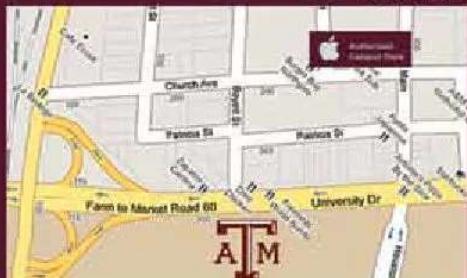
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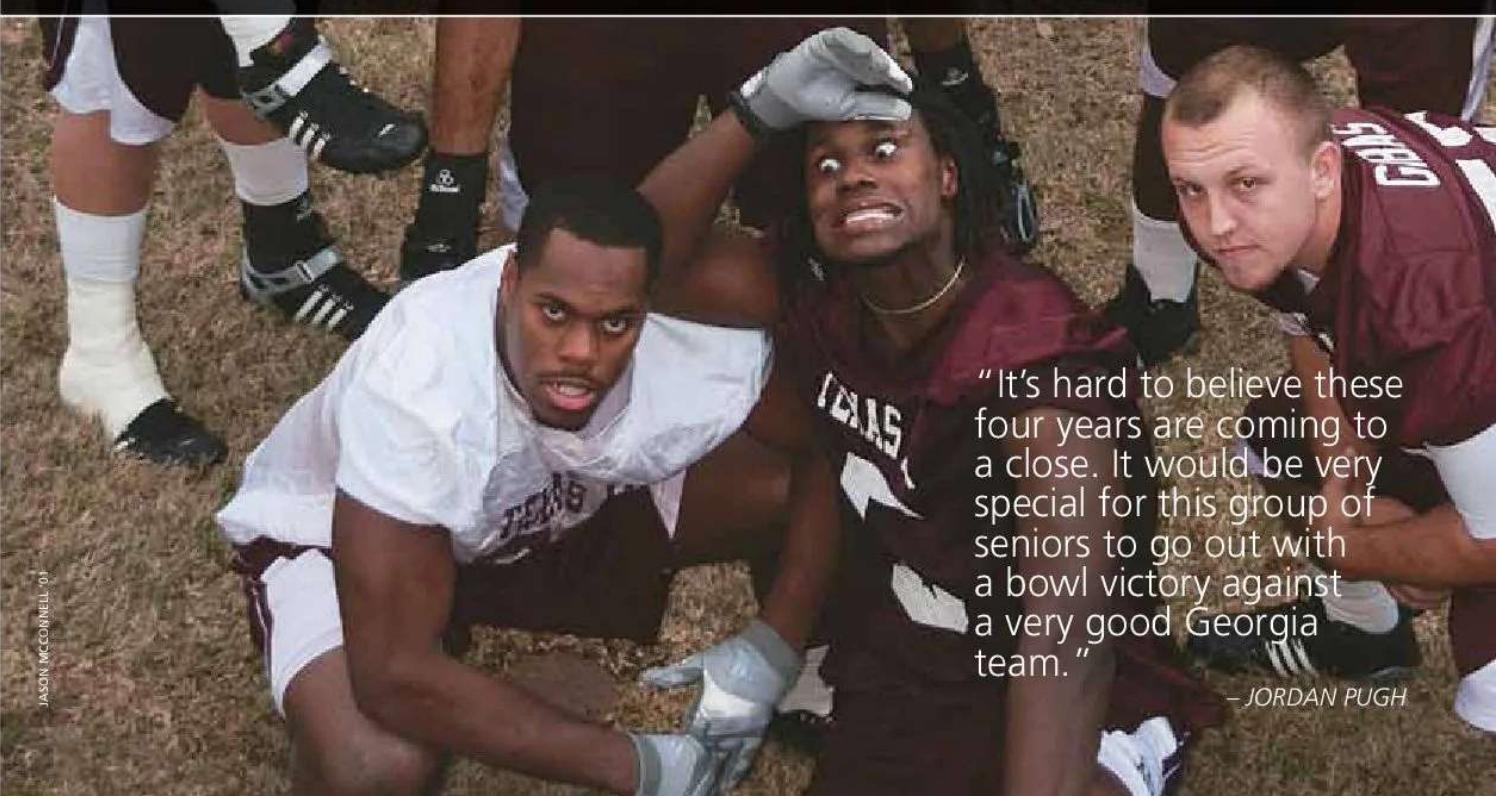


Aggie seniors Kevin Matthews, Lee Grimes, Justin McQueen, Derek Dumas, Michael Shumard, Matt Featherston, Jordan Pugh, Jamie McCoy, Anthony Lewis, Howard Morrow and Corey Gibas.

# BOWL BOUND

Texas A&M will battle Georgia in the Independence Bowl

BY JEREMY KSIONDA '04



"It's hard to believe these four years are coming to a close. It would be very special for this group of seniors to go out with a bowl victory against a very good Georgia team."

—JORDAN PUGH



### OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

#### #8 WR AJ Green (6-4, 207, sophomore)

Despite playing in only nine games in 2009, Georgia WR AJ Green was named to the First-Team All-SEC squad. At 6-4 and 207 pounds, Green will look strikingly similar to the Aggies' No. 8, WR Jeff Fuller, and both sophomore playmakers will want to end the season on a high note as they look forward to important junior campaigns. Green's statistics aren't off the charts (47 receptions, 751 yards, 6 TDs, 16 yards per catch), but his size and playmaking ability force opposing defenses to game-plan around him.



### DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

#### #35 LB Rennie Curran (5-11, 225, junior)

Another First-Team All-SEC selection, Rennie Curran is the anchor of the Georgia defense. His 122 tackles this season marked the second time he's gone over the century mark in his career. Curran is not considered a flashy player, as his tackles for loss, sacks, and interception numbers aren't high, but he is as sure of a tackler as you will find in the country, which will probably make it difficult for the Aggies to break off big plays.



### SPECIAL TEAMS PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

#### #13 P Drew Butler (6-2, 203, sophomore)

Aggie fans are used to seeing the nation's best punter. Unfortunately, he will be playing for the other team in this year's Independence Bowl. In addition to being named First-Team All-SEC, Drew Butler recently received the Ray Guy Award – given to the nation's top punter. He's a virtual lock to receive First-Team All-American accolades as well. If field position becomes an important factor, Butler could be an integral part of the game.



On Dec. 28, Texas A&M will take on Georgia in the Advocare V100 Independence Bowl in Shreveport, LA. Although the Bulldogs are coming off a disappointing 7-5 campaign after beginning the season ranked No. 13, they managed to end on a high note by knocking off 7th-ranked Georgia Tech, 30-24.

Offensively, Georgia came into the season having to replace first-round draft picks Matt Stafford (QB) and Knowshon Moreno (RB). Senior QB Joe Cox put up solid numbers in Stafford's absence, throwing for 2,426 yards and 22 touchdowns, but his 14 interceptions proved costly in several games. In all, the Bulldogs turned the ball over 27 times in 2009 while only forcing 10 turnovers on defense.

Head coach Mark Richt fired three of his defensive assistants at season's end, including co-defensive coordinators Willie Martinez and John Jancek. While those coaches will be gone, the players remain the same, and the underperforming but physical Bulldog defenders will undoubtedly enter the bowl game with a chip on their shoulder. The defensive cupboard is far from bare, however. The Bulldogs are led by junior LB Rennie Curran (left), sophomore DE Justin Houston (38 tackles, 15 TFL, 7.5 sacks) and junior S Reshad Jones (68 tackles, 3 Int's).

TEXAS A&M AGGIES (6-6)	I-BOWL BY THE NUMBERS	GEORGIA BULLDOGS (7-5)
OFFENSIVE STATISTICS		DEFENSIVE STATISTICS
465.33 (5)	Total Offense/Defense (National Rank)	361.83 (73)
33.92 (15)	Scoring Offense/Defense	26.42 (70)
190.42 (25)	Rushing Offense/Defense	127.58 (40)
274.92 (22)	Passing Offense/Defense	200.83 (33)
50.54 (6)	3rd Down Conversion % Offense/Defense	36.20 (36)
47.06 (68)	4th Down Conversion % Offense/Defense	52.94 (73)
77% (92)	Red Zone Offense/Defense	86% (88)
26.08 (2)	First Downs Offense/Defense	17.75 (29)
2.25 (73)	Sacks Allowed Per Game/ Sacks Per Game	2.33 (36)
140.15 (34)	Passing Efficiency/Passing Efficiency Defense	137.14 (90)
DEFENSIVE STATISTICS		OFFENSIVE STATISTICS
431.33 (107)	Total Defense/Offense (National Rank)	361.83 (73)
32.67 (104)	Scoring Defense/Offense	27.67 (59)
168.58 (87)	Rushing Defense/Offense	157.08 (54)
262.75 (111)	Passing Defense/Offense	204.75 (78)
36.69 (43)	3rd Down Conversion % Defense/Offense	38.82 (70)
58.33 (91)	4th Down Conversion % Defense/Offense	57.14 (33)
78% (28)	Red Zone Defense/Offense	93% (10)
22.42 (107)	First Downs Defense/Offense	29.15 (81)
2.92 (8)	Sacks Per Game/Sacks Allowed Per Game	1.00 (12)
135.56 (84)	Passing Efficiency Defense/ Passing Efficiency	132.67 (47)

**2009 GEORGIA RESULTS (7-5, 4-4 SEC)**

Sept. 5	at Oklahoma State	L, 24-10
Sept. 12	South Carolina	W, 41-37
Sept. 19	at Arkansas	W, 52-41
Sept. 26	Arizona State	W, 20-17
Oct. 3	LSU	L, 20-13
Oct. 10	at Tennessee	L, 45-19
Oct. 17	at Vanderbilt	W, 34-10
Oct. 31	at Florida (Jacksonville)	L, 41-17
Nov. 7	Tennessee Tech	W, 38-0
Nov. 14	Auburn	W, 31-24
Nov. 21	Kentucky	L, 34-27
Nov. 28	at Georgia Tech	W, 30-24

**GEORGIA BOWL GAMES WITH COACH MARK RICHT (2001-PRESENT, 89-27)**

12/28/2001	Music City	Boston College 16-20 (L)
1/1/2003	Sugar	Florida State 26-13 (W)
1/1/2004	Capital One	Purdue 34-27 (W)
1/1/2005	Outback	Wisconsin 24-21 (W)
1/3/2006	Sugar	West Virginia 35-38 (L)
12/30/2006	Chick-fil-A	Virginia Tech 31-24 (W)
1/1/2008	Sugar	Hawaii 41-10 (W)
1/1/2009	Capital One	Michigan State 24-12 (W)

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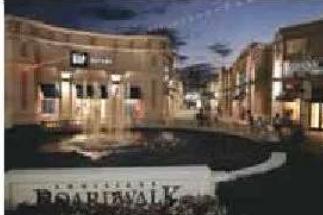
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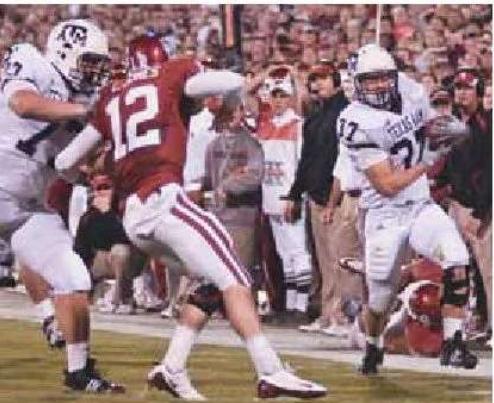
**ADVOCARE**

**BOWL**

**INDEPENDENCE BOWL**

**100**

**ADVOCARE**



Junior LB Michael Hodges intercepts a Landry Jones pass and returns it 28 yards to the Oklahoma 6 yard line. The turnover set up the only touchdown in the game for Texas A&M – a 9-yard pass from Jerrod Johnson to Jeff Fuller. The deficit was only 14-10 at that point in the game, but the Aggies fumbled several times on special teams, leading to the Sooners' 65-10 victory.

## FOOTBALL REWIND

A look back at the Aggies' games against Oklahoma, Baylor and Texas BY BRIAN DAVIS '01

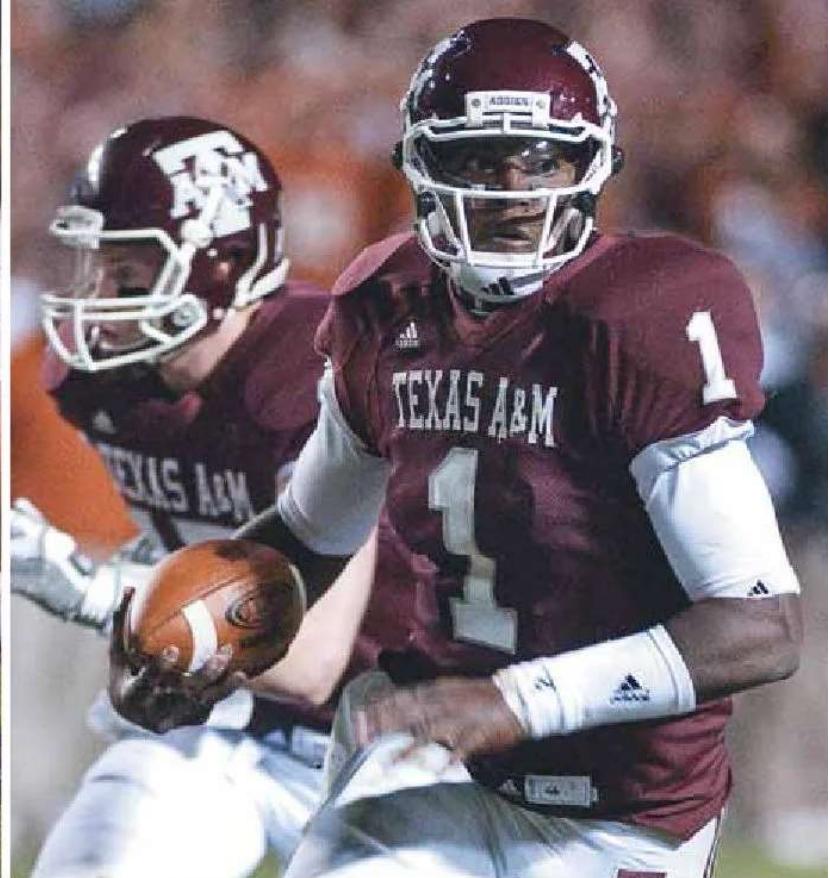


(left) Senior DB Jordan Pugh returns an interception 39 yards against Baylor. The Aggies had three picks in the 38-3 victory over the Bears. (above, left) Junior JACK Von Miller records his only tackle of the game against RB Jay Finley. (top left) Junior QB Jerrod Johnson jukes a defender for a nice gain. (above) Sophomore Ryan Tannehill runs after one of his team-leading four catches for 40 yards. (below) Sophomore DT Eddie Brown sacks Nick Florence for a 12-yard loss. Florence tried to throw the ball away at the last minute, but was flagged for intentional grounding.





(above) Freshman RB Christine Michael spins away from two defenders and strolls in for a touchdown during the fourth quarter of the Texas game. (left) Sophomore DB Trent Hunter hurries Colt McCoy into a quick throw. (top left) Senior WR Howard Morrow skies for the 14-yard touchdown pass from junior QB Jerrod Johnson in the second quarter, tying the game at 21. (top) Led by junior JACK Von Miller, the Aggie defense lines up for the snap. (facing page, top) Johnson runs for some of his career high 97 rushing yards against Texas. (facing page, bottom) Jeff Fuller blows past the Longhorn defensive backs on his way to a 70-yard touchdown reception on the third play of the game. Led by heisman-esque performance from Johnson, the Ags played well enough to win, but were outscored 49-39.



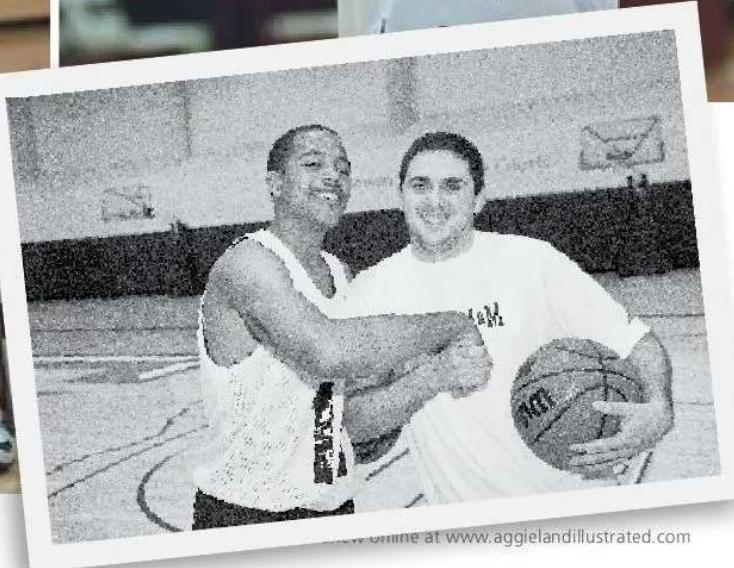
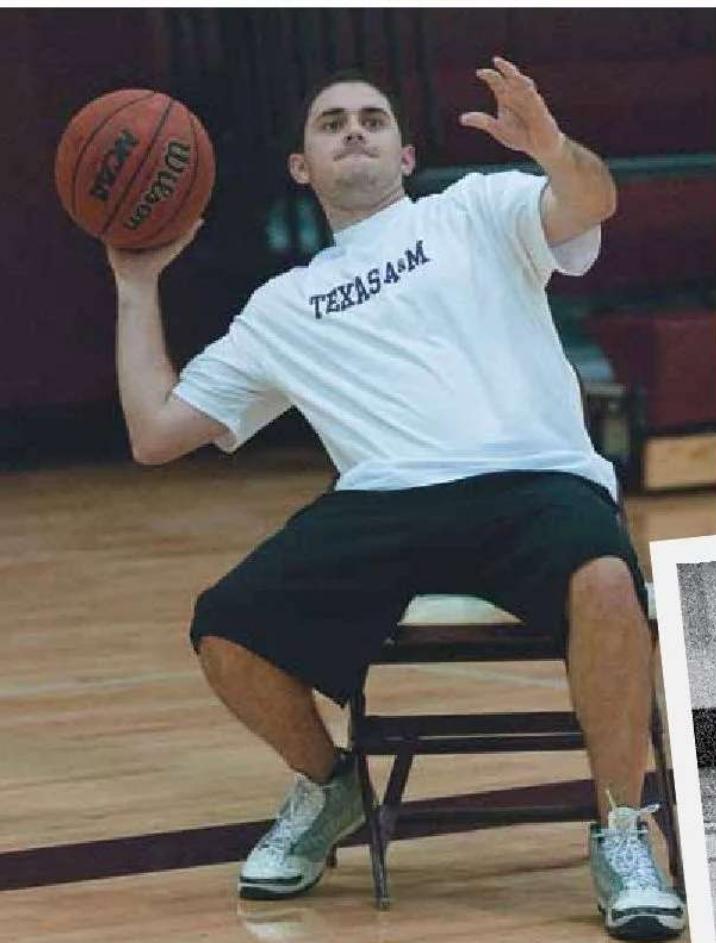
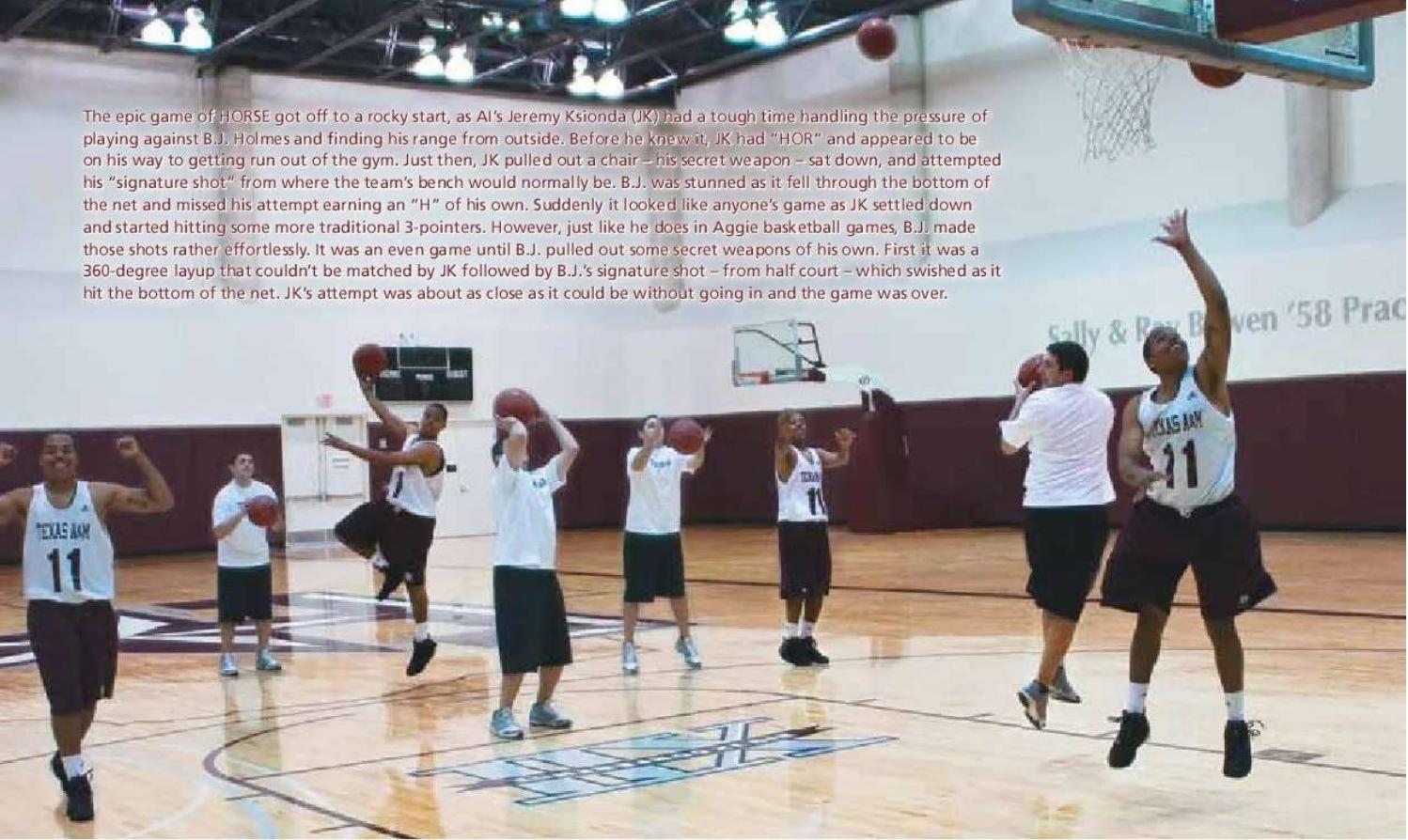
# BJ vs. JK

AI'S JEREMY KSIONDA  
CHALLENGES TEXAS A&M  
GUARD B.J. HOLMES TO  
A GAME OF HORSE

## TALE OF THE TAPE

6-0	HEIGHT	5-9
176	WEIGHT	175
03-06-89	D.O.B.	10-14-81
HOUSTON	HOMETOWN	SWEENEY
10.5	SHOE SIZE	9.5
33"	VERTICAL	24" (32" IN MY PRIME)
PHOENIX & CLEVELAND	FAVORITE NBA TEAM	HOUSTON ROCKETS
LEBRON JAMES	FAVORITE PLAYER	MICHAEL JORDAN
PIZZA	FAVORITE FOOD	PIZZA
BAD BOYS 2 & LITTLE GIANTS	FAVORITE MOVIES	AS GOOD AS IT GETS & CADDYSHACK
JOSH CARTER'S GAME- WINNING SHOT AGAINST NEBRASKA	FAVORITE MOMENT FROM LAST SEASON	WIN OVER MISSOURI TO CLINCH NCAA BERTH
JUST ONE? DIFFICULT	IN ONE WORD, DESCRIBE PLAYING THIS GAME OF HORSE	REMATCH

The epic game of HORSE got off to a rocky start, as Al's Jeremy Ksionda (JK) had a tough time handling the pressure of playing against B.J. Holmes and finding his range from outside. Before he knew it, JK had "HOR" and appeared to be on his way to getting run out of the gym. Just then, JK pulled out a chair – his secret weapon – sat down, and attempted his "signature shot" from where the team's bench would normally be. B.J. was stunned as it fell through the bottom of the net and missed his attempt earning an "H" of his own. Suddenly it looked like anyone's game as JK settled down and started hitting some more traditional 3-pointers. However, just like he does in Aggie basketball games, B.J. made those shots rather effortlessly. It was an even game until B.J. pulled out some secret weapons of his own. First it was a 360-degree layup that couldn't be matched by JK followed by B.J.'s signature shot – from half court – which swished as it hit the bottom of the net. JK's attempt was about as close as it could be without going in and the game was over.



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# AI AWARDS AND PREDICTIONS

BY AI STAFF

The regular season is over, conference champions have been crowned and only the bowl matchups remain in the 2009 college football season. That means it's time for the AI staff to hand out our annual Big 12 Awards and make our bowl predictions. The winner of the bowl contest earns bragging rights for a year, while the loser has to write the editor's note in the next issue. **AI**

## BIG 12 AWARDS

**OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR**  
WR Jordan Shipley, Texas



**DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR**  
DL Ndamukong Suh, Nebraska



**OFFENSIVE FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR**  
RB Christine Michael, Texas A&M

**DEFENSIVE FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR**  
DL Aldon Smith, Missouri

**COACH OF THE YEAR**  
Bo Pelini, Nebraska



**ASSISTANT COACH OF THE YEAR**  
Nolan Cromwell, Texas A&M

## ALL BIG 12 TEAM

### OFFENSE

**QB** **Jerrod Johnson, Texas A&M**  
RB Daniel Thomas, Kansas State  
RB Demarco Murray, Oklahoma\*  
WR Jordan Shipley, Texas  
WR Ryan Broyles, Oklahoma  
**TE** **Jamie McCoy, Texas A&M**  
OL Russell Okung, Oklahoma State  
OL Trent Williams, Oklahoma  
OL Nick Stringer, Kansas State  
OL Nate Solder, Colorado  
OL Kurtis Gregory, Missouri



### DEFENSE

**DL** Ndamukong Suh, Nebraska\*  
DL Jared Crick, Nebraska  
**DL** **Von Miller, Texas A&M**  
DL Jeremy Beal, Oklahoma  
LB Sean Weatherspoon, Missouri  
LB Jesse Smith, Iowa State  
LB Travis Lewis, Oklahoma\*  
DB Earl Thomas, Texas  
DB Perrish Cox, Oklahoma State  
DB Larry Asante, Nebraska  
DB Cha'pelle Brown, Colorado



### SPECIAL TEAMS

K Grant Ressel, Missouri  
P Quinn Sharp, Oklahoma State  
KR Brandon Banks, Kansas State  
PR Brandon Banks, Kansas State



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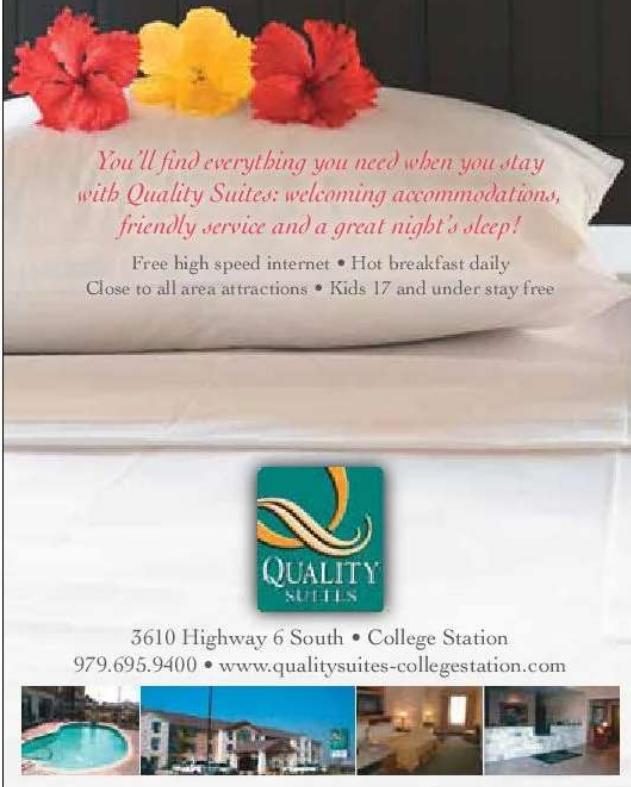
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## AI STAFF BOWL PREDICTIONS

										
<b>New Mexico</b> Fresno State vs. Wyoming	Fresno State	Wyoming	Fresno State	Wyoming	Fresno State					
<b>St. Petersburg</b> UCF vs. Rutgers	UCF	Rutgers	UCF	UCF	UCF	UCF	UCF	Rutgers	UCF	UCF
<b>R&amp;L Carriers New Orleans</b> Southern Miss vs. Middle Tennessee	Southern Miss	Southern Miss	Middle Tennessee	Middle Tennessee	Southern Miss	Southern Miss	Southern Miss	Southern Miss	Southern Miss	Southern Miss
<b>MAACO Las Vegas</b> Oregon State vs. BYU	Oregon State	BYU	BYU							
<b>S.D. County Credit Union Poinsettia</b> Utah vs. Cal	Cal	Cal	Cal	Cal	Utah	Cal	Cal	Utah	Cal	Utah
<b>Sheraton Hawaii</b> Nevada vs. SMU	SMU	SMU	Nevada	SMU	SMU	SMU	SMU	Nevada	SMU	Nevada
<b>Little Caesars</b> Marshall vs. Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Marshall	Ohio	Ohio	Marshall	Marshall	Ohio	Ohio	Marshall
<b>Meineke Car Care</b> Pitt vs. North Carolina	Pitt	North Carolina	Pitt	Pitt	North Carolina	Pitt	Pitt	Pitt	Pitt	Pitt
<b>Emerald</b> Boston College vs. USC	USC	USC	USC	USC	USC	USC	USC	USC	USC	USC
<b>Gaylord Hotels Music City</b> Kentucky vs. Clemson	Clemson	Clemson	Kentucky	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson
<b>Advocare V100 Independence</b> Texas A&M vs. Georgia	A&M	A&M	A&M	Georgia	A&M	A&M	A&M	A&M	Georgia	Georgia
<b>EagleBank</b> UCLA vs. Temple	UCLA	UCLA	UCLA	Temple	Temple	UCLA	UCLA	UCLA	UCLA	UCLA
<b>Champs Sports</b> Miami vs. Wisconsin	Miami	Miami	Miami	Miami	Miami	Miami	Wisconsin	Miami	Wisconsin	Wisconsin
<b>Roady's Humanitarian</b> Bowling Green vs. Idaho	Bowling Green	Idaho	Idaho	Idaho	Bowling Green	Idaho	Bowling Green	Idaho	Idaho	Idaho
<b>Pacific Life Holiday</b> Arizona vs. Nebraska	Nebraska	Nebraska	Arizona	Arizona	Arizona	Nebraska	Nebraska	Nebraska	Nebraska	Nebraska
<b>Bell Helicopter Armed Forces</b> Houston vs. Air Force	Houston	Air Force	Houston	Houston	Houston	Houston	Houston	Houston	Houston	Houston
<b>Brut Sun</b> Oklahoma vs. Stanford	Stanford	Stanford	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Stanford	Stanford	Oklahoma
<b>Texas</b> Navy vs. Missouri	Missouri	Navy	Navy	Missouri	Missouri	Navy	Navy	Missouri	Missouri	Missouri
<b>Insight</b> Minnesota vs. Iowa State	Minnesota	Iowa State	Iowa State	Minnesota	Iowa State	Iowa State	Iowa State	Iowa State	Iowa State	Minnesota
<b>Chick-Fil-A</b> Virginia Tech vs. Tennessee	Tennessee	Virginia Tech	Virginia Tech	Virginia Tech						
<b>Outback</b> Northwestern vs. Auburn	Auburn	NW	NW	Auburn	Auburn	Auburn	Auburn	Auburn	Auburn	Auburn
<b>Capital One</b> Penn State vs. LSU	Penn State	LSU	LSU	Penn State	LSU	Penn State	Penn State	Penn State	LSU	LSU
<b>Konica Minolta Gator</b> West Virginia vs. Florida State	West Virginia	Florida State	Florida State	West Virginia	Florida State	West Virginia	Florida State	Florida State	Florida State	West Virginia
<b>Rose Bowl Game by Citi</b> Ohio State vs. Oregon	Oregon	Oregon	Oregon	Oregon	Oregon	Oregon	Oregon	Ohio State	Ohio State	Ohio State
<b>Allstate Sugar</b> Florida vs. Cincinnati	Florida	Florida	Florida	Cincinnati	Florida	Florida	Cincinnati	Florida	Florida	Florida
<b>International</b> South Florida vs. Northern Illinois	South Florida	Northern Illinois	South Florida	South Florida	South Florida	South Florida	Northern Illinois	South Florida	Northern Illinois	South Florida
<b>Papajohns.com</b> South Carolina vs. UConn	South Carolina	South Carolina	South Carolina	UConn	South Carolina	South Carolina	South Carolina	UConn	South Carolina	South Carolina
<b>AT&amp;T Cotton</b> Oklahoma State vs. Ole Miss	Oklahoma State	Oklahoma State	Ole Miss	Ole Miss	Ole Miss	Oklahoma State	Ole Miss	Oklahoma State	Ole Miss	Ole Miss
<b>AutoZone Liberty</b> Arkansas vs. East Carolina	Arkansas	East Carolina	Arkansas	Arkansas						
<b>Valero Alamo</b> Michigan State vs. Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Michigan State	Michigan State	Michigan State	Michigan State	Michigan State	Michigan State
<b>Tostitos Fiesta</b> Boise State vs. TCU	Boise State	TCU	TCU	TCU	Boise State	Boise State	TCU	TCU	TCU	TCU
<b>FedEx Orange</b> Iowa vs. Georgia Tech	Georgia Tech	Iowa	Iowa	Georgia Tech	Georgia Tech	Georgia Tech	Iowa	Georgia Tech	Iowa	Georgia Tech
<b>GMAC</b> Central Michigan vs. Troy	Troy	Troy	Central Michigan	Central Michigan	Troy	Troy	Central Michigan	Troy	Central Michigan	Central Michigan
<b>Citi BCS National Championship Game</b> Texas vs. Alabama	Alabama	t.u.	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama

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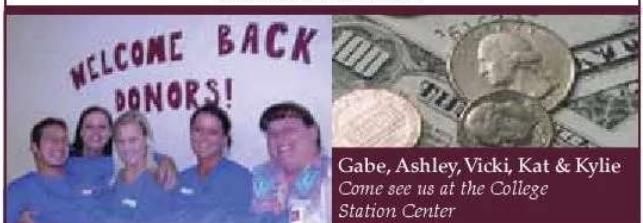
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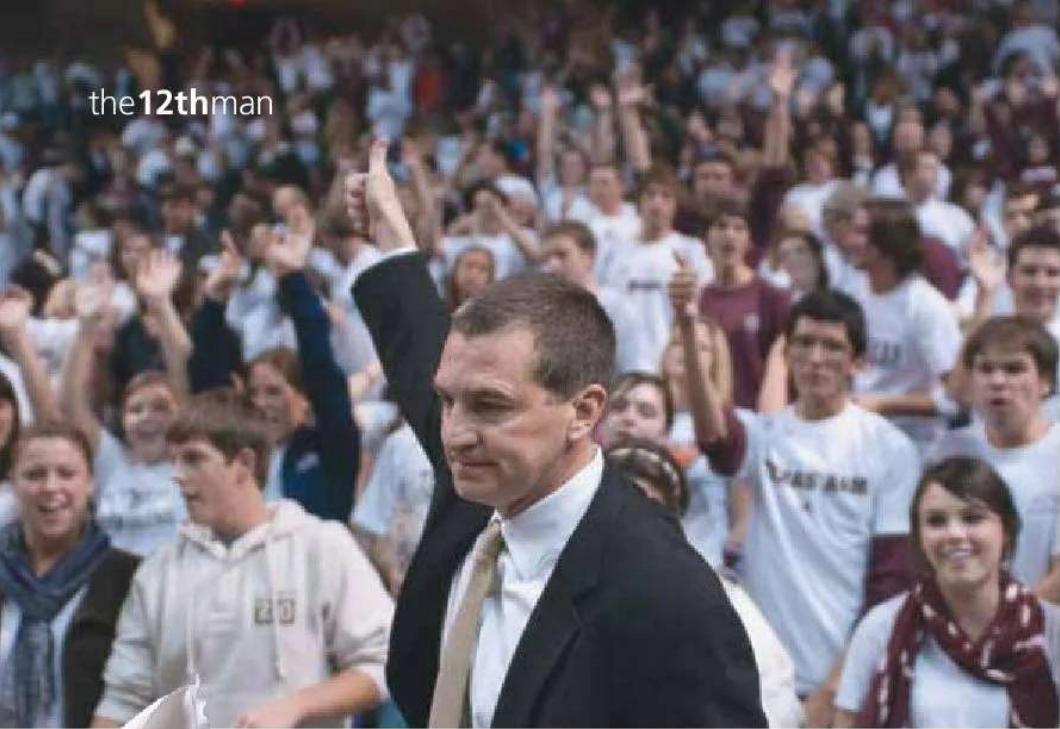
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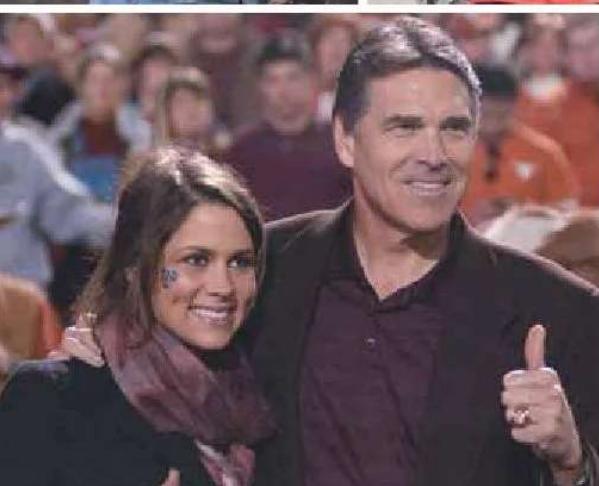
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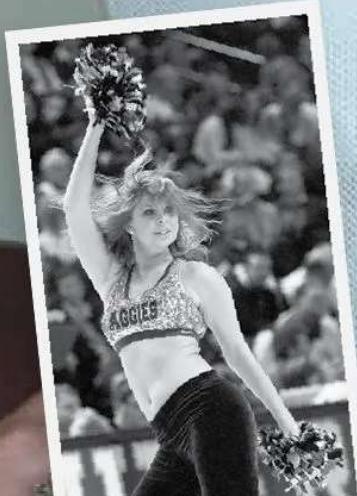
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(above, left) Coach Mark Turgeon shows his appreciation of the student crowd at the Samford basketball game. (above, right) ESPN sideline reporter Erin Andrews came to Aggieland for the Texas game. (left and below) Several professional athletes attended Texas A&M football games in November including Boston Red Sox pitcher Josh Beckett, Carolina Panther running back Mike Goodson and New York Yankee first baseman Mark Teixeira. (bottom, left) Texas Governor Rick Perry and his daughter at the Texas game. (bottom, middle and right) The Aggie Dance Team entertains the Reed Arena crowd.





MACEY MURRAY '12  
AGGIE DANCE TEAM  
BRYAN, TX



**Why I love A&M:** I grew up in Bryan so I have always known about A&M and the traditions. I love the football games. I love sawing varsity's horns off during the War Hymn.

**Favorite tradition:** I don't know if it is a tradition or not, but when someone on the other team fouls out and the crowd chants "left-right-left-right."

**Hardest part of being on the Dance Team:** Waking up at 7 a.m. for practices and being happy to be here.

**Typical practice for the Dance Team:** We come in at 7 a.m. We learn new dances or practice ones we know. We set the upcoming game. We have three dances we do every game. We set the dances we do with the band. We do the dances over and over until we perfect them. Then we do them over and over again.

**Typical game day for the Dance Team:** About 2 hours before the game you get ready with makeup and hair. We get here about an hour before the game and we practice. After we practice, we fix our makeup and head out to the court.

**Favorite Movies:** Taken, Wedding Crashers. Anything funny really.

**Favorite Music/Artist:** Rap and Country.

**Favorite TV Shows:** So You Think You Can Dance, Gossip Girl, One Tree Hill

**I like to spend my weekends** either going out or staying at home and watching movies, depending on my mood.

**Strange or unusual fact about me:** I can pop a lot of bones in my body that probably shouldn't be popped. It doesn't seem normal when I do it, especially when I am dancing.

**Attribute I like most about myself:** I am very honest, genuine and humble. Not like most girls.

**Attribute I like least about myself:** I don't have a lot of patience. I wish I had some more of that.

**If I had more time, I would** travel the world. I would like to go to every country.

**Favorite food:** Wings 'N More. I used to work there and I still like to eat there.

**Five people I would like to have dinner with:** Chelsea Handler, Lil Wayne, Matthew McConaughey. I want to meet the Kardashian family.

**Pet peeve:** Slow drivers. Or, when you are at a red light and someone has their turn signal on to turn right but they don't turn. It makes me a so mad. I get a little road rage.

**If I had a superpower, I would** be invisible so I could listen to other people's conversations. I am nosy.

**If I won the lottery, I would buy** a new house for my family and then a house for me.

**Favorite dance routine:** Last year we did a dance to "I got a bottle" and "Basement Party." Those were my favorite. This year it would be "Girls." **AK**

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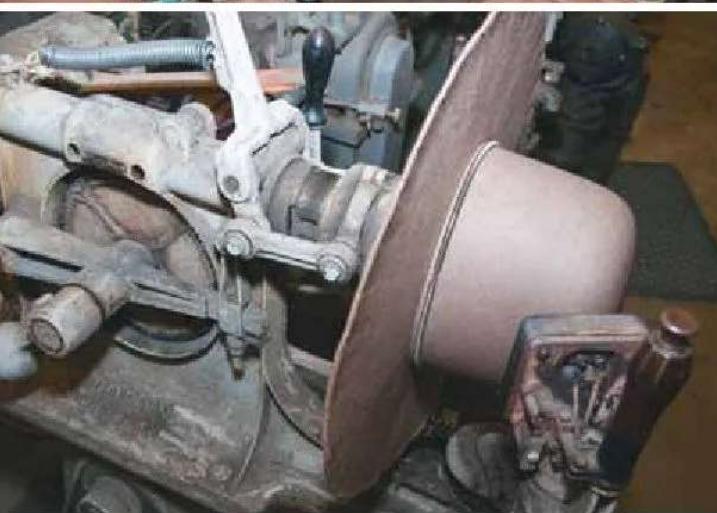
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# chance encounter

BY KATIE MCCONNELL '09

Sammy Catalena '72 always dreamed of doing something big. Sammy, along with his wife, Carolyn are the proud owners of Catalena Hatters, the world famous hat store and factory located in downtown Bryan. The Catalenas have provided hats to everyone from local residents, customers across the globe and many famous faces including Garth Brooks, Neil McCoy, George H.W. Bush and Willie Nelson.

Sammy was born and raised in Bryan, TX and unlike many people who grow up in the Brazos Valley, he never wanted to move away. Sammy knew he wanted to go to Texas A&M and never thought twice about it.

"Living here gave me a good understanding of how meaningful the Aggie network is," he said.

Sammy, also a Vietnam veteran, has traveled all over the world and has become a part of Texas history, but it all started with a chance encounter 1,000 miles away from home.

While traveling through Florida, Sammy came across a magazine advertisement for the sale of a complete custom hat operation.

"The owner realized he wouldn't be able to fulfill his dream of having an old style hat shop," Sammy said. "Other big name hat companies had been through, but that man would only sell his equipment to someone who would make hats like he wanted to – by hand. I was that guy."

It was through his life-long involvement in the rodeo and in helping at the former Whitten Hatters that he first discovered his fascination for hats. For Sammy, a good hat symbolized ev-

erything that he loved.

In 1983, Catalena Hatters opened its doors and began creating their renowned hats. Along with making hats, the Catalena's are heavily involved in the rodeo business, the Catalena Cowgirls and ranching.

"The hat business started it all," Sammy explained as he pointed to a world map on the wall. "There probably isn't a single place on that map that we haven't sold a hat to."

In fact, prior to the fall of the Berlin Wall, the Catalenas even received a letter from East Germany requesting one of their hats.

"We had to take the letter to the university to have it translated in order to know what it said and how to place their order," Carolyn recalled.

Being highly requested is just one of the ways in which Sammy and Carolyn's business stands apart from the rest.

"Not a lot of people know what goes on in this little, old building in downtown Bryan," Sammy added.

Still using the same 1920s equipment that got them started, the Catalenas clean, renovate and create custom-built cowboy hats – an in-depth process that not only takes time and commitment, but also the desire to do the job well. Because of his thorough construction and genuine, quality work, very few custom hat shops like Catalena Hatters exist.

"There might be 20 scattered throughout the United States," Carolyn said.

While the business has been growing, so has the Catalena family. Now, two of their sons – Travis, who has been working with hats for over 26 years, and Scott who is currently a senior at Texas A&M – are integral parts of the hat making operation.

After 26 years in business in the town they love, Sammy and Carolyn don't have any regrets. After all, Catalena Hatters helped them achieve their dreams – and then some. **AM**

"The hat business started it all. There probably isn't a single place on that map that we haven't sold a hat to."

– SAMMY CATALENA

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Led by then-head coach R.C. Slocum, Texas A&M battled Mississippi State and former coach Jackie Sherrill in the 2000 Independence Bowl – otherwise known as the "Snow Bowl."



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Texas Tech, Baylor & OSU

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